

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SCCT-02

SY-04 DRC-01 /110 W

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P R 162139Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8217

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2005

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SOCI

SUBJ: GOC DENOUNCES HOLY WEEK TERRORISM PLAN

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 1975 NOTAL;

(B) SANTIAGO 1943 NOTAL;

(C) SANTIAGO 1505 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. GOC CLAIMS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES UNCOVERED LEFTIST
EXTREMIST PLAN FOR WAVE OF HOLY WEEK TERRORISM. ALLEGED PLOT
INCLUDED ATTEMPT AGAINST CARDINAL AND ATTACKS ON SECURITY
FORCES. SPOKESMAN SAYS SECURITY FORCES SUFFERED SOME
CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, CARDINAL'S ESCORT WITHDRAWN AFTER HOLY
WEEK AND THERE ARE NO RPT NO OTHER REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON
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SECURITY FORCES. WE CONCLUDE THERE SOME DOUBT RE BONA FIDES OF

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOC PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY ANNOUNCED APRIL 15 THAT GOC INTELLIGENCE BECAME AWARE ON APRIL 11 OF LEFTIST EXTREMIST PLANS FOR TERRORISM DURING HOLY WEEK. WILLOUGHBY ALSO SAID SECURITY FORCES HAD SUFFERED SOME CASUALTIES FROM ATTACKS DURING THIS PERIOD, AND THAT THREAT AGAINST CARDINAL SILVA (REFTEL A) WAS PART OF PLAN. COOPERATION OF CITIZENRY AND EFFICIENCY OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAD FRUSTRATED PLANS, HOWEVER, AND THE PLOTTERS WOULD BE CAPTURED.

3. WILLOUGHBY ALSO REFERRED TO DISCOVERY OF SECRET COMMUNICATIONS METHODS, THROUGH VISITORS, IN AND OUT OF DETENTION CENTERS. HE SAID THIS IS RELATED TO CLOSURE OF DAWSON ISLAND TO VISITORS (REFTEL B).

4. GOC IS AWARE OF LEFTIST EFFORTS TO PROVOKE CONFLICT BETWEEN GOC AND RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS, BUT EFFORTS HAVE FAILED BECAUSE GOVT HAS EFFECTIVE RELATIONS WITH ALL RELIGIOUS AND "PHILOSOPHICAL" GROUPS, WILLOUGHBY SAID. HOWEVER, WHILE "OUR GOVERNORS" ARE PROCLAIMED CHRISTIANS, OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES DOES NOT IMPLY CARELESSNESS WITH THE WELFARE AND SECURITY OF CHILEANS. "WEAKNESS LEADS TO DISORDER," AND THEREFORE GOC WILL ACT WITH GREATEST FORCE AND WITHOUT VACILLATION AGAINST THOSE WHO MENACE PRESENT TRANQUILITY.

5. CARDINAL'S SECURITY COVERAGE DISCONTINUED APRIL 15 AFTER HE LEFT UNESCORTED FOR BISHOPS CONFERENCE AT PUNTA DE TRALCA ON SUNDAY, APRIL 14. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. CARDINAL'S PRIVATE SECRETARY FATHER LUIS ANTONIO DIAZ TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 16 THAT CARDINAL DISCARDED PREPARED TEXT OF EASTERN SERMON AND SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY TO ANNOUNCE REPORTED THREAT ON LIFE. GOC OFFER OF PROTECTION WAS UNDERSTOOD TO COVER ONLY SUPPOSED DANGER PERIOD OF HOLY WEEK, AND WAS WITHDRAWN BY MUTUAL CONSENT ON APRIL 15. HOWEVER, ONE CARABINERO GUARD REMAINS ON DUTY IN FRONT OF CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE, A CHANGE FROM PATTERN OF POST-COUP SECURITY COVERAGE.

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7. DIAZ SAID FIRST WORD OF SUPPOSED PLOT CAME BY PHONE CALL, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY VISIT, TO CARDINAL APRIL 11 BY COL. CONTRERAS OF "CHIEF" OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. CARDINAL DECIDED TO ACCEPT OFFER OF PROTECTION APPROVED BY JUNTA PRES. PINOCHET "IN ORDER NOT TO APPEAR DISRESPECTFUL OF THE AUTHORITIES," ACCORDING TO DIAZ. CARDINAL'S SERMON FOLLOWED SUBSTANCE OF PREPARED TEXT FAIRLY CLOSELY, BUT REVELATION OF PLOT INFORMATION

CAME AS A SURPRISE. WILLOUGHBY'S OFFICE PHONED DIAZ TO INQUIRE,
AND DIAZ REFERRED HIM TO CONTRERAS.

8. FATHER RAUL HASBUN, WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN TALK WITH EMBOFF,
OBSERVED THAT REMOVAL OF SECURITY PROTECTION CAST DOUBT ON
REALITY OF REPORTED PLOT, SINCE IF IT HAD ANY SUBSTANCE ONE
WOULD SUPPOSE THAT EXTREMISTS HAVING BEEN FOILED IN HOLY WEEK
MIGHT STILL PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH IT LATER. (HASBUN, FORMER
SECRETARY OF CHILEAN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE, WAS RECENTLY REMOVED
BY JUNTA-APPOINTED RECTOR-DELEGATE FROM DIRECTORSHIP OF
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY'S TV-13.) BOTH PRIESTS IMPLIED THAT THEY AS
WELL AS CARDINAL HAVE DOUBTS REGARDING PLOT REPORT, AND THEY
FOUND MOTIVATION FOR FABRICATION OF THIS KIND HARD TO DETERMINE.

9. COMMENT: ENTIRE AFFAIR OF ALLEGED THREAT AGAINST CARDINAL,
INCLUDING WILLOUGHBY'S REMARKS ABOUT GOC INTENTION TO CONTINUE
TOUGH LINE AGAINST OPPOSITION, LENDS ITSELF TO INTERPRETATION
THAT IT IS GOC EFFORT TO APPLY PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNTER-PRESSURE
AGAINST CARDINAL AND CHURCH. NEWS THAT CASUALTIES SUFFERED BY
SECURITY FORCES WAS QUICKLY DOWNPLAYED IN PRESS FROM HEADLINES
TO BRIEF MENTION IN TEXT, AND NO REPEAT NO DETAILS OR OTHER
REPORTS OF RECENT ATTACKS HAVE BEEN HEARD. DOUBTFUL CARDINAL
OR OTHER CRITICAL CHURCH SOURCES WI
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: PLOTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLICE PROTECTION
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Draft Date: 16 APR 1974
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Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Executive Order: GS
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